



FAX NEWS

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A donation of one million dollars

The United States helps to achieve transparency in crime investigation

The new Forensic Investigations Institute is the first of its kind and has state-of-the-art technology.

The Forensic Investigations Institute, which is being implemented with a U.S. government donation of about one million dollars, will be officially inaugurated Monday, May 30. Liliana Ayalde, Director of the U.S. Agency for International Development in Bolivia, will preside over the inauguration ceremony. The Institute will be in charge of conducting all scientific and technical studies for crime investigation and probing other cases in compliance with judicial orders. This institute is the first of its kind in Bolivia.

Also, an agreement with Bolivian institutions made it possible to provide Bolivian technicians with training abroad, so that they can produce highly specialized analyses of proof and evidence. This initiative is part of the ongoing U.S. government's cooperation to Bolivia to improve justice administration in the country and to achieve transparency in criminal investigations.

The government of the United States provides ongoing support to the people and government of Bolivia in the area of justice administration improvement. The U.S. not only supports the Public Ministry, for example by funding the creation of this institute, but also has supported the reform of the Code of Criminal Procedures and will work to support Bolivian government's initiative to modernize the Code of Commerce.

The Forensic Investigations Institute was equipped with a sophisticated system that includes advanced scientific and technological features to support a dependable justice administration in Bolivia.

How will the Institute benefit Bolivian citizens?

Up to now, the quality of evidence collection and analysis, as well as the dependability of the results, was often disputed, creating doubts about the accuracy and reliability of police investigations. The new infrastructure will prevent evidence contamination during investigations of criminal offenses, guarantee the transparency of the results in laboratory tests, and ultimately safeguard the principles of fair, balanced, and correct law enforcement on behalf of all citizens.

The Institute will provide the following services:

Clinic Laboratory in charge of analyzing samples and/or evidences to identify and measure toxic substances such as ethanol, methanol, cocaine, cannabis derivatives, biological toxins, opium derivatives; the lab will also identify and analyze blood types, hair samples, will conduct paternity tests, DNA analysis, etc.

Criminology Laboratory in charge of verifying new and old documents, comparing signatures, analyzing counterfeit documents and currency, conducting ballistic studies, fingerprint collection and analysis, etc.

Forensic Medicine in charge of evaluating bodily injuries, certifying days of incapacity, assessing degrees of intoxication by alcohol or drugs, conducting autopsies, necropsies, preparing criminal personality profiles, evaluating psychological damage, etc.

The Institute will also implement a unit in charge of performing evidence collection and custody.